

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

Member congregation of the Church of the Lutheran Confession (clclutheran.org)

320 Moorpark Way - Mountain View, California 94041-1600



Pastor: Luke Bernthal

Email: lbernthal@live.com † Cell: (402) 389-2147

Home: (650) 282-5752

Online Video Production: Chris Holt, Julia Bernthal & Scott Mueller

Organist: Barb Gullerud

Website: sslcwest.org

Church Office: (650) 964-5915

St. Stephen Lutheran School Staff: Isaac & Mikkela Schmitt (Teachers),
Julia Bernthal (Administrator), Pastor Luke Bernthal (Principal)

School Office: (650) 961-2071

School Website: ssls.org

October 15, 2023 † Pentecost 20



We Welcome Our Visitors who are with us this morning.

We hope that you are uplifted by the Gospel at our worship service.

We invite you to join us every Sunday. Please sign our guestbook in the entry.

† Preparation for Worship: Read Psalm 118 (Lutheran Service Book or Pew Bible) †

**Our Worship Services will be Posted to Our Website Each Sunday Evening.
To Watch our Worship Service Online Please Click This Link:**

<https://www.sslcwest.org/worship.html>

Opening Hymn: 644 *The Church's One Foundation*

LSB 644



1 The Church's one foun - da - tion Is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, Yet one o'er all the earth;
3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der The world sees her op - pressed,
4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion And tu - mult of her war
5 Yet she on earth has u - nion With God, the Three in One,



She is His new cre - a - tion By wa - ter and the Word.
Her char - ter of sal - va - tion: One Lord, one faith, one birth.
By schisms rent a - sun - der, By her - e - sies dis - tressed,
She waits the con - sum - ma - tion Of peace for - ev - er - more
And mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion With those whose rest is won.



From heav'n He came and sought her To be His ho - ly bride;
One ho - ly name she bless - es, Par - takes one ho - ly food,
Yet saints their watch are keep - ing; Their cry goes up, "How long?"
Till with the vi - sion glo - rious Her long - ing eyes are blest,
O bless - ed heav'n - ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by Your grace



With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.
And to one hope she press - es With ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
And soon the night of weep - ing Shall be the morn of song.
And the great Church vic - to - rious Shall be the Church at rest.
That we, like saints be - fore us, May see You face to face.

Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839–1900, alt.
Tune: Samuel S. Wesley, 1810–76
Text and tune: Public domain

Invocation

We invoke ("call upon") the name of the one true God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

P In the name of the Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Confession and Absolution

We come before our Holy God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.

P God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

C **If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** (1 John 1:5, 7-9)

P Let us pray...

C **Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer:**

We confess that we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. We have not loved You above all things. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Have mercy on us, and, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, forgive us our sins.

P Jesus Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. We are forgiven! With boldness and confidence we may approach the throne to find grace to help in time of need. In the joy and peace of forgiveness let us praise the Lord...

(LSB 966 v. 1)

1 Be - fore You, Lord, we bow, Our God who reigns a - bove
And rules the world be - low, Bound-less in pow'r and love. Our thanks
we bring In joy and praise, Our hearts we raise To You, our King!

Text: Francis Scott Key, 1779–1843, alt.
Tune: John Darwall, 1731–89
Text and tune: Public domain

Prayer of the Day

P We pray:

Almighty God, You invite us to trust in You for our salvation. We pray that You would not deal with us in the severity of Your judgment but by the greatness of Your mercy. We pray this through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

First Reading

Isaiah 5:1-7 (EHV)

Let me sing for my loved one a song about my loved one's vineyard.

My loved one had a vineyard on a fertile ridge.

² He dug it up and gathered the stones out of it.

He planted it with the best vines. He built a tower in the middle of it.

He also cut a winepress into it.

He expected it to produce clusters of sweet grapes, but it produced only sour grapes.

***³ So now, you residents of Jerusalem and you men of Judah,
judge between me and my vineyard.***

***⁴ What more could have been done for my vineyard
that I have not already done for it?***

***When I expected it to produce clusters of sweet grapes,
why did it produce sour grapes?***

⁵ Now, let me tell you what I will do to my vineyard.

I will take away its hedge, and it will become a pasture.

I will break down its wall, and it will be trampled down.

⁶ I will make it a wasteland. It will not be pruned or hoed.

So briers and thorns will shoot up.

I will also command the clouds not to pour rain on it.

***⁷ Yes, the vineyard of the LORD of Armies is the house of Israel,
and the men of Judah are the planting that was pleasing to him.***

He expected justice, but instead there was oppression.

He expected righteousness, but there was an outcry.

Second Reading

Matthew 21:33-43 (EHV)

P The second reading is from Matthew 21:33-43.

C Sanctify us by Your truth, O LORD. Your Word is truth!

³³ *"Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. He leased it out to some tenant farmers and went away on a journey. ³⁴ When the time approached to harvest the fruit, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. ³⁵ The tenant farmers seized his servants. They beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. ³⁶ Then the landowner sent even more servants than the first time. The tenant farmers treated them the same way. ³⁷ Finally, he sent his son to them. 'They will respect my son,' he said. ³⁸ But when the tenant farmers saw the son, they said to each other, 'This is the heir. Come, let's kill him and take his inheritance!' ³⁹ They took him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰ So when the landowner comes, what will he do to those tenant farmers?" ⁴¹ They told him, "He will bring those wretches to a wretched end. Then he will lease out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him his fruit when it is due."*

⁴² *Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures:*

The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.

This was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?

⁴³ *"That is why I tell you the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruit.*

P Here ends our Scripture readings.

C Praise to You, O Christ!

(LSB 966 v. 5)

5 And when in pow'r He comes, Oh, may our na - tive land

From all its rend - ing tombs Send forth a glo - rious band, A count -

less throng, With joy to sing To heav'n's high King Sal - va - tion's song!

Text: Francis Scott Key, 1779–1843, alt. Tune: John Darwall, 1731–89 Text and tune: Public domain

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn of the Day: 730 *What Is the World to Me?*

LSB 730



1 What is the world to me With all its vaunt - ed plea - sure
2 The world seeks to be praised And hon - ored by the might - y
3 The world seeks af - ter wealth And all that mam - mon of - fers
4 What is the world to me! My Je - sus is my trea - sure,
When You, and You a - lone, Lord Je - sus, are my trea - sure!
Yet nev - er once re - flects That they are frail and flight - y.
Yet nev - er is con - tent Though gold should fill its cof - fers.
My life, my health, my wealth, My friend, my love, my plea - sure,
You on - ly, dear - est Lord, My soul's de - light shall be;
But what I tru - ly prize A - bove all things is He,
I have a high - er good, Con - tent with it I'll be:
My joy, my crown, my all, My bliss e - ter - nal - ly.



You are my peace, my rest. What is the world to me!
My Je - sus, He a - lone. What is the world to me!
My Je - sus is my wealth. What is the world to me!
Once more, then, I de - clare: What is the world to me!

Text: Georg Michael Pfefferkorn, 1645–1732; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.
Tune: Ahasverus Fritsch, 1629–1701
Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon Text: Philippians 3:12-21 (EHV)

¹²Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus also took hold of me. ¹³Brothers, I do not consider myself to have taken hold of it yet, but there is one thing I do: Forgetting the things that are behind and straining toward the things that are ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal, for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵Therefore, let all of us who are mature continue to think this way. And if you think differently about anything, God will reveal this to you too. ¹⁶Only let us think the same thing and walk in line with what we already have attained. ¹⁷Brothers, join together in imitating me and in paying attention to those who are walking according to the pattern we gave you. ¹⁸To be sure, many walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. I told you about them often, and now I am saying it while weeping. ¹⁹Their end is destruction, their god is their appetite, and their glory is in their shame. They are thinking only about earthly things. ²⁰But our citizenship is in heaven. We are eagerly waiting for a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹By the power that enables him to subject all things to himself, he will transform our humble bodies to be like his glorious body.

Sermon Theme: Citizens of Heaven

✝ The Apostle Paul had many things he could look back on with regret in his life. Instead of looking back and languishing in his past sins and regrets what did he do? (**v. 12-14**)

✝ What does a “walk,” or life, focused on heaven look like? (**v. 15-17**)

✝ What does a “walk,” or life, focused on earthly things look like? (v. 18-19)

✝ In what way is our “citizenship in heaven” a future thing? (v. 20-21)

✝ In what way is our “citizenship in heaven” a present thing?

Offertory

LSB 956



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new
a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way
from Thy pres - ence; and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va - tion;
and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Public domain

Offering *We offer our gifts to the Lord, remembering that He has first given to us that we might have to give to Him.*
(✝ *If you have an offering to give today, please place it in the plate in the church entryway.* ✝)

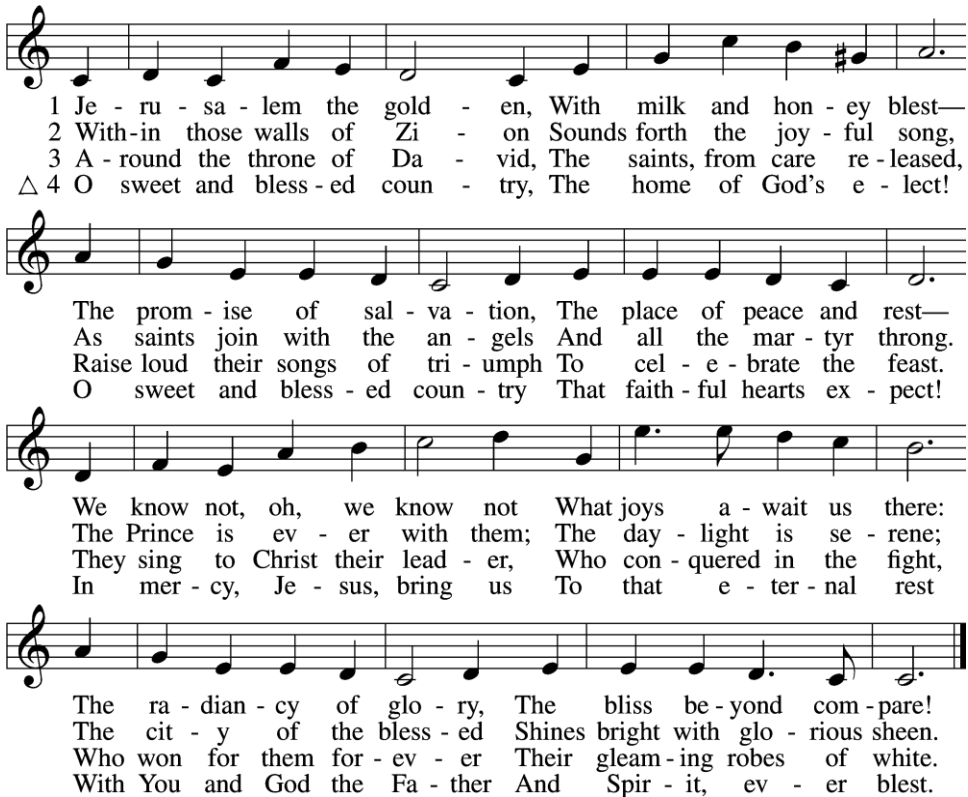
Prayer of the Church / Prayer Requests *We bring our prayers to God.*

Lord's Prayer

- ☐ Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

Sermon Hymn: 672 Jerusalem the Golden *(please stand for last verse)*

LSB 672



1 Je - ru - sa - lem the gold - en, With milk and hon - ey blest—
2 With-in those walls of Zi - on Sounds forth the joy - ful song,
3 A - round the throne of Da - vid, The saints, from care re - leased,
△ 4 O sweet and bless - ed coun - try, The home of God's e - lect!

The prom - ise of sal - va - tion, The place of peace and rest—
As saints join with the an - gels And all the mar - tyr throng.
Raise loud their songs of tri - umph To cel - e - brate the feast.
O sweet and bless - ed coun - try That faith - ful hearts ex - pect!

We know not, oh, we know not What joys a - wait us there:
The Prince is ev - er with them; The day - light is se - rene;
They sing to Christ their lead - er, Who con - quered in the fight,
In mer - cy, Je - sus, bring us To that e - ter - nal rest

The ra - dian - cy of glo - ry, The bliss be - yond com - pare!
The cit - y of the bless - ed Shines bright with glo - rious sheen.
Who won for them for - ev - er Their gleam - ing robes of white.
With You and God the Fa - ther And Spir - it, ev - er blest.

Text: Bernard of Cluny, 12th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.
Tune: Alexander C. Ewing, 1830–95, alt.
Text and tune: Public domain

Benediction *The blessing given by God for the blessing of His people (Numbers 6:24-26).*

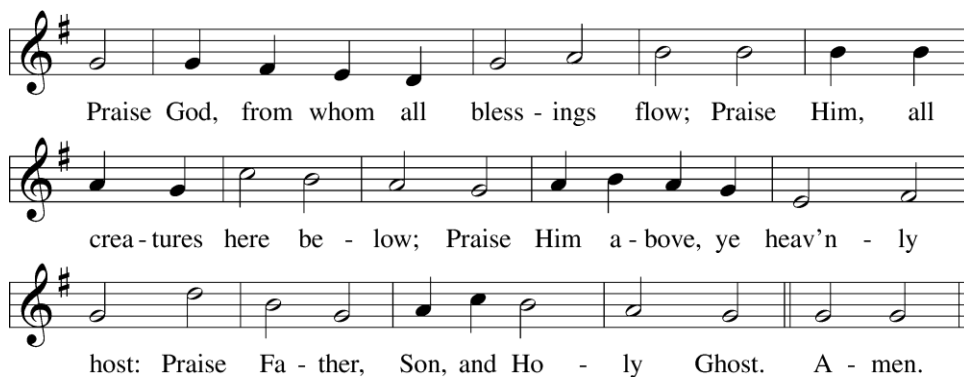
P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

The Doxology

LSB 805



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise Him, all
crea - tures here be - low; Praise Him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly
host: Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

Public domain

Closing Hymn: 748 *I'm But a Stranger Here* *(please stand for last verse)*

LSB 748



1 I'm but a strang - er here, Heav'n is my home;
2 What though the tem - pest rage, Heav'n is my home;
3 There - fore I mur - mur not, Heav'n is my home;
Earth is a des - ert drear, Heav'n is my home.
Short is my pil - grim - age, Heav'n is my home;
What - e'er my earth - ly lot, Heav'n is my home;
Dan - ger and sor - row stand Round me on ev - 'ry hand;
And time's wild win - try blast Soon shall be o - ver - past;
And I shall sure - ly stand There at my Lord's right hand;



Heav'n is my fa - ther - land, Heav'n is my home.
I shall reach home at last, Heav'n is my home.
Heav'n is my fa - ther - land, Heav'n is my home.

Text: Thomas R. Taylor, 1807–35
Tune: Arthur S. Sullivan, 1842–1900
Text and tune: Public domain

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today: **St. Stephen – West (Mt. View): Worship – 10am**
 Choir – 11am

St. Stephen – East Bay (Hayward): Worship – 1pm

St. Stephen – South (Ontario): Worship and Bible Study-6:30pm

This Week: Mon. – Friday – **NO School at SSLS – Fall Break**

CLC Teacher's Conference, Berea Lutheran, Inver Grove Heights, MN – 10/18-20/20

Wednesday – **Bible Instruction Class** (Fenton) (Mt. View) – **11:30am**

Wed. Online Bible Study (Zoom) – **7pm**

Thurs. – Mon. – **Pastor Luke on Vacation**

Next Sunday: **St. Stephen – West (Mt. View): Worship – 10am / Choir – 11am**

10/22/23 Conducting Worship: Mark Gullerud & Michael Slattengren

St. Stephen – East Bay (Hayward): Worship – 1pm

Conducting Worship: Timothy Blank & Jerry Dimpel

Online Worship Services - <https://www.sslcwest.org/worship.html>

Coming Up:



Joint Reformation Worship & Fellowship Meal (Mt. View) @ 10am – 10/29

There is a sign-up sheet for the Reformation meal in the church entryway

Southern California Worship and Bible Study – TONIGHT Sun. 10/15 @ 6:30pm

Our Southern California Worship Service and Bible Study will be held **TONIGHT Sunday, October 15th @ 6:30pm**. We will be meeting in the conference room at Kevin Fossum's workplace. The location is near the Ontario airport. Here is the address:

**Total Transportation & Distribution
9278 Charles Smith Ave.
Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730**

Wednesday Zoom Bible Class this Week - 7pm – Please make plans to join us this Wednesday at 7pm for our online Bible Study. Pastor Luke's Zoom link:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/8729663333>

Pastor Luke On Vacation This Week – Thurs. 10/19-Mon. 10/23 – Pastor Luke will be on vacation this week from Thurs. 10/19-Mon. 10/23. Mark Gullerud and Michael Slattengren will be conducting the 10am worship service next Sunday in Mountain View, and Timothy Blank and Jerry Dimpel will be conducting the 1pm worship service in Hayward. We thank these men for using their gifts and talents in service to the Lord and our congregation.

CLC News - Pastor Neal Radichel of Immanuel Lutheran in Mankato, MN *has accepted the call* from Messiah Lutheran of Eau Claire, WI to be their third pastor. <> Pastor Em. David Baker *has received and accepted the call* from Resurrection Lutheran in Corpus Christi, TX to be vacancy pastor.

<>Prayers for Tina Eichstadt, wife of Pastor Wayne Eichstadt, Gethsemane, Spokane Valley, WA, and the director of the recent Pacific Coast Women's retreat.

This past Wednesday, while in Hawaii celebrating their 20th wedding anniversary Tina had a major heart attack after hiking Diamond Head. She had two stents put in place and is still recovering and awaiting more test results in the ICU of a Honolulu hospital.

On Saturday, Pastor Wayne wrote this update to his congregation:

"There is good and encouraging news today.

Before I was able to get up to the hospital this morning, Tina was asking the nurse (by writing) to call me and wondered what had happened. She is still very weak, in her words, "I feel like I've been hit by a bus." They have removed the breathing tube. They will try out her swallow later today and may be able to give her some things by mouth.

There is so much for which to be thankful, much for which to still pray, and resting in God's grace.

Thank you all for your many and continued prayers!" – Pastor Wayne Eichstadt